

# Daily Digest

## Highlights

House agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1540, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S8555–S8618*

**Measures Introduced:** Eight bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1988–1995. **Page S8602**

#### Measures Passed:

***Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act:*** Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 515, to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S8611**

Reid (for Kerry/Lugar) Amendment No. 1462, to make minor edits to the bill. **Page S8611**

***Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012:*** Senate passed H.R. 1892, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S8611–17**

Reid (for Feinstein/Chambliss) Amendment No. 1463, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S8617**

#### Measures Failed:

***Balanced Budget Joint Resolution:*** By 21 yeas to 79 nays (Vote No. 228), two-thirds of Senators voting not having voted in the affirmative, Senate failed to pass S.J. Res. 24, proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. **Pages S8565–67**

***Balanced Budget Joint Resolution:*** By 47 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 229), two-thirds of Senators voting not having voted in the affirmative, Senate failed to pass S.J. Res. 10, proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. **Pages S8565–67**

#### Appointments:

***National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity:*** The Chair announced, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to P.L. 110–315, the appointment of the following to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Ms. Jill Derby of Nevada, vice Daniel Klaich of Nevada. **Page S8617**

**Christen Nomination—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 15, 2011, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Morgan Christen, of Alaska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate resume legislative session, and at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate return to executive session, resume consideration of the nomination, and there be an additional 2 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form, prior to a vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that no further motions be in order to the nomination. **Page S8611**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

8 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

15 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

**Pages S8611, S8617–18**

**Messages from the House:** **Pages S8600–01**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S8601**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Pages S8601, S8617**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S8601–02**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S8602**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S8602–04**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:****Pages S8603–04****Additional Statements:****Pages S8598–S8600****Amendments Submitted:****Pages S8604–10****Authorities for Committees to Meet:****Pages S8610–11****Privileges of the Floor:****Page S8611**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—229)

**Pages S8566–67**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:10 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2011. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8617.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### INVESTOR RISKS IN CAPITAL RAISING

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance and Investment concluded a hearing to examine investor risks in capital raising, including S. 1824, to amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration under that Act, S. 1831, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to eliminate the prohibition against general solicitation as a requirement for a certain exemption under Regulation D, S. 1933, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies, and S. 1970, to amend the securities laws to provide for registration exemptions for certain crowdfunded securities, after receiving testimony from John C. Coates IV, Harvard Law School, Newton, Massachusetts; Kate Mitchell, Scale Venture Partners, San Francisco, California; Barry E. Silbert, SecondMarket, New York, New York; Stephen Luparello, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Alexandria, Virginia; and Mark T. Hiraide, Petillon Hiraide and Loomis LLP, Redondo Beach, California.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1449, to authorize the appropriation of funds for highway safety programs and for other purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1950, to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve commercial motor vehicle safety and reduce commercial motor vehicle-related accidents and fatalities, to authorize the Federal Motor Carrier

Safety Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1952, to improve hazardous materials transportation safety;

S. 1953, to reauthorize the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, to improve transportation research and development; and

A promotion list in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Rebecca R. Wodder, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife.

### ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES

*Committee on Finance:* Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure concluded a hearing to examine alternative energy tax incentives, focusing on the effect of short-term extensions on alternative technology investment, domestic manufacturing, and jobs, after receiving testimony from Molly Sherlock, Analyst in Economics, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Will Coleman, Mohr Davidow Ventures, Menlo Park, California; Martha Wyrsh, Vestas-American Wind Technology, Inc., Portland, Oregon; Paul Soanes, Renewable Biofuels, Inc., Houston, Texas; and Margo Thorning, American Council for Capital Formation, Washington, D.C.

### HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW IN RUSSIA

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on European Affairs concluded a hearing to examine the state of human rights and rule of law in Russia, focusing on United States policy options, after receiving testimony from Philip H. Gordon, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, and Thomas O. Melia, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, both of the Department of State; and David Kramer, Freedom House, Edward S. Verona, U.S.-Russia Business Council, and Tom Malinowski, Human Rights Watch, all of Washington, D.C.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill entitled, "Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012";

H.R. 2297, to promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia;

H.R. 789, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in